

Recent Washington State YOUTH Findings

BACKGROUND / SIGNIFICANCE

Smoking rates among Washington youth were at an all time high in the late 1990's. Since the robust implementation of the TPC program in the Fall of 2000, these record rates decreased to an all time low in 2004.

The story released to the press was merely the abridged addition to an extensive analysis that explored these uncanny observed declines. In the end, the press release summed up these results as "65,000 fewer youth smokers" and "rate drops by nearly half."

What follows are the unabridged contents of the detailed exploration into the declines in the Washington youth smoking rates. Trends are explored by gender, academic achievement, urban/rural location, and race/ethnicity.

METHODS

Surveys: Washington State has used a variety of similar surveys in the past to collect survey data about youth. The datasets included in this analysis are as follows.

1. 1998 *Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors (WSSAHB)*
2. 1999 *Washington State Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)*
3. 2000 *Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors (WSSAHB)*
4. 2002 *Healthy Youth Survey (HYS)*
5. 2004 *Healthy Youth Survey (HYS)*

Sample: Statewide in-school paper and pencil survey
Response rate: 40-70%

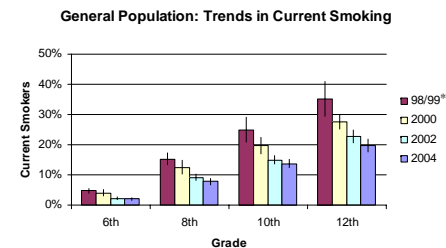
Limitations: Only represents students in public schools.

RESULTS

Overall Changes

There are significant decreases in cigarette smoking among youth in all grades from 1998 for 6th and 8th graders, and 1999 for 10th and 12th graders*

From 2002 to 2004 alone, significant decreases in cigarette are seen among 10th and 12th graders



Race-Specific Changes

American Indian / Alaskan Native

- Significant decreases in current cigarette smoking are seen among 6th, and 10th grade American Indian/Alaskan Native youth from 2000 to 2004
- There are no significant changes in current cigarette smoking from 2002 to 2004 alone among American Indian/Alaskan Native youth

Asian, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander

- Significant decreases in current cigarette smoking are seen among 8th, 10th and 12th grade Asian/Pacific Islander youth from 2000 to 2004
- There are no significant changes from 2002 to 2004 alone among Asian/Pacific Islander youth

Black / African American

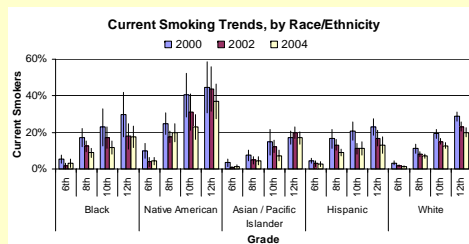
- Significant decreases in current cigarette smoking are seen among 8th, 10th and 12th grade Black/African-American youth from 2000 to 2004
- There are no significant changes in current cigarette smoking from 2002 to 2004 alone among Black/African-American youth

Hispanic - Latino/Latina

- Significant decreases in current cigarette smoking are seen among 8th, 10th and 12th grade Hispanic youth from 2000 to 2004
- The only significant change in current cigarette smoking from 2002 to 2004 alone, is a decrease among 8th grade Hispanic youth

White / Caucasian

- Significant decreases in current cigarette smoking are seen among all White youth from 2000 to 2004
- The only significant change in current cigarette smoking from 2002 to 2004 alone, is a decrease among 10th grade White youth

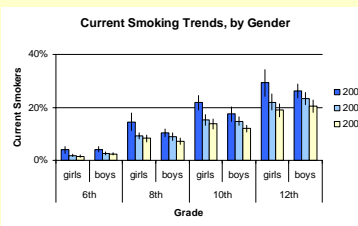


Gender-Specific Changes

Significant decreases in current cigarette smoking are seen among both boys and girls in all grades from 2000 to 2004

The only significant change from 2002 to 2004 alone, is among 10th grade boys, all other changes are non-significant

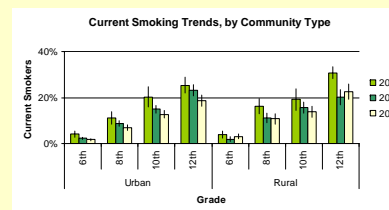
In 2004 smoking prevalence was similar for boys and girls in 8th, 10th and 12th grades, girls were significantly lower than boys for 6th grade



Urban / Rural Comparisons*

From 2000 to 2004, statistically significant drops are seen among youth located in all types of communities, except 6th grade rural youth.

From 2002 to 2004 alone, there are significant decreases in cigarette smoking among 8th, 10th and 12th grade urban youth, but no significant changes among rural youth

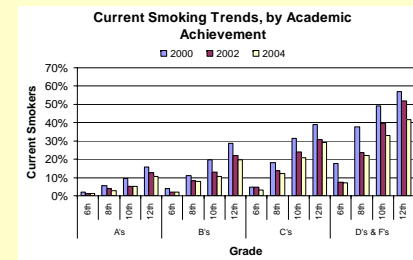


Self-Reported Academic Achievement Comparisons

From 2000 to 2004, significant drops in smoking are seen for among youth in all grades with all types of academic performance; except there is a non-significant drop among 6th grade youth who report getting C's

In 2004, rates continued to drop among youth who reported all types of academic performance but at a lesser non-significant rate.

Although drops in smoking were fairly consistent across the range of academic performance, smoking rates remain strongly associated with academic performance. Students who report getting "mostly As" in school have a lower prevalence of smoking than the state average, and youth who report very poor performance in school have much greater than the state prevalence of smoking. For example, almost half of seniors who report getting mostly Ds and Fs in school currently smoke in comparison to just over 10% of seniors who get As. The rate of smoking among 6th graders who get Ds and Fs is more than six times the rate among 6th graders who report getting mostly As.



CONCLUSIONS

As demonstrated in the preceding figures, a substantial amount of analysis is preformed in order to understand the simple changes in youth smoking prevalence. These analyses not only enrich the understanding of program progress in the area of prevention, but also aid in determining areas of disparate progress for targeting program augmentation. While these details may be lost in a succinct press release, they are taken as action items in upcoming state-level program activities.

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